WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for achieving data consistency in an enterprise resource planning system, comprising:

receiving a first set of structural data;

sending the first set of structural data to two or more enterprise resource planning systems;

wherein at least two of the enterprise resource planning systems are associated with a single business or related group of businesses;

wherein each of the at least two enterprise resource planning systems maintains its own structural data; and

wherein the sending of the first set of structural data is operable to cause each of the enterprise resource planning systems to create or change their own structural data.

2.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the first set of structural data comprises structural data for a first contract wherein at least some transactions under the contract will be handled through a first profit center.

3.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the first set of structural data comprises structural data for a first cost center associated with a first profit center.

4.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the first set of structural data comprises structural data for a first profit center.

5.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the first set of structural data comprises data associated with the addition of a new contract to the at least two enterprise resource planning systems.

6.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the first set of structural data comprises data associated with the changing of the structural data for a first contract for use in the at least two enterprise resource planning systems.

7.   The method of Claim 1 wherein the first set of structural data comprises data associated with one of the following selected from the group consisting of:

the addition of a first profit center to the at least two enterprise resource planning systems;

the changing of the structural data for a first profit center for use in the at least two enterprise resource planning systems;

the addition of a new cost center to the at least two enterprise resource planning systems; and

the changing of the structural data for a cost center for use in the at least two enterprise resource planning systems.

8.   The method of Claim 2 wherein the structural data for the first contract further comprises data identifying the location of the first profit center in a plurality of hierarchies.

9. The method of Claim 2,

wherein the structural data for the first contract further comprises data identifying the location of the first profit center in at least one hierarchy; and

wherein the creation or changing of the structural data for the first contract causes an automatic update to the at least one hierarchy in the at least two enterprise resource planning systems.

10. The method of Claim 9, wherein the creation or changing of the structural data for the first contract causes an automatic update to structural data associated with the first profit center and a first cost center associated with the first contract in the at least two enterprise resource planning systems.

11. The method of Claim 1, wherein the sending of the first set of structural data occurs nearly immediately after the first set of structural data was received where such first set of structural data comprises valid data.

12. The method of Claim 1, wherein the sending of the first set of structural data occurs some time interval after the first set of structural data was received in accordance with a periodic update schedule.

13. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

sending the first set of structural data to a general ledger system and a data warehousing system.

14. The method of Claim 1,

wherein the at least two enterprise resource planning systems comprise SAP enterprise resource planning systems; and

wherein the first set of structural data is sent to the at least two enterprise resource planning systems using the application link enabling facility supplied by SAP.

15. A tool for achieving data consistency in an enterprise resource planning system, comprising:

a computer readable storage medium;

computer software stored on the computer readable storage medium and operable to;

receive a first set of structural data;

send the first set of structural data to two or more enterprise resource planning systems;

wherein at least two of the enterprise resource planning systems are associated with a single business or related group of businesses;

wherein each of the at least two enterprise resource planning systems maintains its own structural data; and

wherein the sending of the first set of structural data is operable to cause each of the enterprise resource planning systems to create or change their own structural data.

16. The tool of Claim 15, wherein the first set of structural data is received through a graphical user interface.

17. The tool of Claim 15, wherein the first set of structural data comprises a file.

18. The tool of Claim 15, wherein the first set of structural data comprises structural data for a first contract wherein at least some transactions under the contract will be handled through a first profit center.

19. The tool of Claim 15, wherein the first set of structural data comprises data associated with the addition of a new contract to the at least two enterprise resource planning systems.

20. The tool of Claim 15, wherein the first set of structural data comprises data associated with the changing of the structural data for a first contract for use in the at least two enterprise resource planning systems.

21. The tool of Claim 18, wherein the structural data for the first contract further comprises data identifying the location of the first profit center in a plurality of hierarchies.

22. The tool of Claim 18,

wherein the structural data for the first contract further comprises data identifying the location of the first profit center in at least one hierarchy; and

wherein the creation or changing of the structural data for the first contract causes an automatic update to the at least one hierarchy in the at least two enterprise resource planning systems.

23. The tool of Claim 22, wherein the creation or changing of the structural data for the first contract causes an automatic update to structural data associated with the first profit center and a first cost center associated with the first contract in the at least two enterprise resource planning systems.

24.   The tool of Claim 15, wherein the computer software is further operable to:

send the first set of structural data to a general ledger system and a data warehousing system.

5

25.   The tool of Claim 15,

wherein the at least two enterprise resource planning systems comprise SAP enterprise resource planning systems; and

10

wherein the first set of structural data is sent to the at least two enterprise resource planning systems using the application link enabling facility supplied by SAP.

15